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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 ARA-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 HEW-04 AGRE-00
OES-07 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /136 W
----------077706 151710Z /42
P R 151457Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6026
INFO AMEMBASSY BISSAU
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY PRAIA POUCH
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4406

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: PEPR PO AO PU
SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE EFFORTS AT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH ANGOLA

REF: (A) LISBON 4356 (NOTAL), (B) BISSAU 0695 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: THE EANES/NETO SUMMIT WILL TAKE PLACE IN BISSAU BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH. EANES WILL PUSH FOR A BILATERAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT AS THE PRELUDE TO AN EXPANDING PORTUGUESE PRESENCE IN ANGOLA. END SUMMARY.

1. IN A JUNE 14 CONVERSATION WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR, ROBERTO CARNEIRO, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO FOREIGN MINISTER SA MACHADO, MADE THE LINKAGE BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S JUNE 12 COMMENTS TO THE AMBASSADOR (REF A) AND THE UPCOMING EANES BILATERAL WITH ANGOLAN PRESIDENT NETO EXPLICIT. CARNEIRO CONFIRMED THAT EANES WILL MEET NETO IN BISSAU IN THE "VERY NEAR FUTURE, BEFORE THE END OF THE MONTH."

2. THINKING OUT LOUD, CARNEIRO SAID THAT IT WAS OBVIOUS NETO
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MUST EVENTUALLY COME TO TERMS WITH UNITA IF ANGOLA IS TO BEGIN THE LONG ROAD TO RECOVERY. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE HOWEVER, FOR EANES IN HIS INITIAL MEETING WITH NETO TO PUSH THIS THEME TOO HARD. NETO'S DECISION TO MEET EANES WAS IN ITSELF AN ACT OF COURAGE WHICH HAD BEEN TAKEN AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE CUBANS. THE BEST THING EANES COULD DO AT THIS POINT WAS TO PRESS THE CASE FOR WIDER CONTACT WITH THE PORTUGUESE

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AND THE WEST GENERALLY. TO THIS END, CARNEIRO SAID, THE PRESIDENT
WILL DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED PORTUGUESE TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE IN SUCH AREAS AS CONSTRUCTION, EDUCATION,
AGRICULTURE, AND HEALTH. THE LIMITED PORTUGUESE OBJECTIVE
WILL BE A FORMAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT.

3. CARNEIRO ACKNOWLEDGED THAT WEANING THE ANGOLANS AWAY FROM THE
CUBANS WOULD TAKE TIME AND MIGHT BE IMPOSSIBLE AS LONG AS THE FIGHTING

CONTINUED. BUT STILL IT WAS WORTH THE EFFORT. THE
PORTUGUESEBY THEMSELVES, HOWEVER, DID NOT HAVE THE
RESOURCES TO CARRY THEIR IDEAS VERY FAR. SUPPORT FROM THE
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS WAS ESSENTIAL TO
CREATE THE INCENTIVE FOR NETO TO BEGIN TO REDUCE HIS
DEPENDENCE ON THE CUBANS. CARNEIRO ASKED SPECICALLY HOW
THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD REACT TO PROPOSALS FOR ASSISTANCE
TO ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE THROUGH IFI'S.

4. SA MACHADO'S EARLIER REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF U.S. POLICY ON
ANGOLA TAKES ON ADDED SIGNIFICANCE IN LIGHT OF
CARNEIRO'S COMMENTS. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL TO HAVE
BY COB JUNE 20 BOTH THAT STATEMENT AND AN INFORMAL ESTIMATE OF HOW
THE USG MIGHT RESPOND TO PROPOSALS IN THE IFI'S FOR
ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LISBON04406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780250-0883
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780656/aaaabwlu.tel
Line Count: 86
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 40996088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LISBON 4356, 78 BISSAU 695
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2341333
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE EFFORTS AT RAPPROCHEMENT WITH ANGOLA
TAGS: PEPR, TECH, PO, AO, PU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/40996088-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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EO Systematic Review
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Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014